

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1003

## AN ACT

To clarify Federal law with respect to restricting  
the use of Federal funds in support of assisted  
suicide.

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To clarify Federal law with respect to restricting the use  
of Federal funds in support of assisted suicide.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purpose.
- Sec. 3. Restriction on use of Federal funds under health care programs.
- Sec. 4. Restriction on use of Federal funds under certain grant programs under  
the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights  
Act.
- Sec. 5. Restriction on use of Federal funds by advocacy programs.
- Sec. 6. Restriction on use of other Federal funds.
- Sec. 7. Clarification with respect to advance directives.
- Sec. 8. Application to District of Columbia.
- Sec. 9. Conforming amendments.
- Sec. 10. Relation to other laws.
- Sec. 11. Effective date.
- Sec. 12. Suicide prevention (including assisted suicide).

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Federal Government provides financial  
9 support for the provision of and payment for health  
10 care services, as well as for advocacy activities to  
11 protect the rights of individuals.

12 (2) Assisted suicide, euthanasia, and mercy kill-  
13 ing have been criminal offenses throughout the Unit-  
14 ed States and, under current law, it would be unlaw-  
15 ful to provide services in support of such illegal ac-  
16 tivities.

17 (3) Because of recent legal developments, it  
18 may become lawful in areas of the United States to  
19 furnish services in support of such activities.

1           (4) Congress is not providing Federal financial  
2           assistance in support of assisted suicide, euthanasia,  
3           and mercy killing and intends that Federal funds  
4           not be used to promote such activities.

5           (b) PURPOSE.—It is the principal purpose of this Act  
6           to continue current Federal policy by providing explicitly  
7           that Federal funds may not be used to pay for items and  
8           services (including assistance) the purpose of which is to  
9           cause (or assist in causing) the suicide, euthanasia, or  
10          mercy killing of any individual.

11   **SEC. 3. RESTRICTION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER**  
12                           **HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS.**

13          (a) RESTRICTION ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF  
14          HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—Subject to subsection (b), no  
15          funds appropriated by Congress for the purpose of paying  
16          (directly or indirectly) for the provision of health care  
17          services may be used—

18               (1) to provide any health care item or service  
19               furnished for the purpose of causing, or for the pur-  
20               pose of assisting in causing, the death of any indi-  
21               vidual, such as by assisted suicide, euthanasia, or  
22               mercy killing;

23               (2) to pay (directly, through payment of Fed-  
24               eral financial participation or other matching pay-  
25               ment, or otherwise) for such an item or service, in-

1 including payment of expenses relating to such an  
2 item or service; or

3 (3) to pay (in whole or in part) for health bene-  
4 fit coverage that includes any coverage of such an  
5 item or service or of any expenses relating to such  
6 an item or service.

7 (b) CONSTRUCTION AND TREATMENT OF CERTAIN  
8 SERVICES.—Nothing in subsection (a), or in any other  
9 provision of this Act (or in any amendment made by this  
10 Act), shall be construed to apply to or to affect any limita-  
11 tion relating to—

12 (1) the withholding or withdrawing of medical  
13 treatment or medical care;

14 (2) the withholding or withdrawing of nutrition  
15 or hydration;

16 (3) abortion; or

17 (4) the use of an item, good, benefit, or service  
18 furnished for the purpose of alleviating pain or dis-  
19 comfort, even if such use may increase the risk of  
20 death, so long as such item, good, benefit, or service  
21 is not also furnished for the purpose of causing, or  
22 the purpose of assisting in causing, death, for any  
23 reason.

1 (c) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FACILITIES AND EM-  
2 PLOYEES.—Subject to subsection (b), with respect to  
3 health care items and services furnished—

4 (1) by or in a health care facility owned or op-  
5 erated by the Federal government, or

6 (2) by any physician or other individual em-  
7 ployed by the Federal government to provide health  
8 care services within the scope of the physician's or  
9 individual's employment,

10 no such item or service may be furnished for the purpose  
11 of causing, or for the purpose of assisting in causing, the  
12 death of any individual, such as by assisted suicide, eutha-  
13 nasia, or mercy killing.

14 (d) LIST OF PROGRAMS TO WHICH RESTRICTIONS  
15 APPLY.—

16 (1) FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING PRO-  
17 GRAMS.—Subsection (a) applies to funds appro-  
18 priated under or to carry out the following:

19 (A) MEDICARE PROGRAM.—Title XVIII of  
20 the Social Security Act.

21 (B) MEDICAID PROGRAM.—Title XIX of  
22 the Social Security Act.

23 (C) TITLE XX SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK  
24 GRANT.—Title XX of the Social Security Act.

1 (D) MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
2 BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.—Title V of the Social  
3 Security Act.

4 (E) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—The  
5 Public Health Service Act.

6 (F) INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT  
7 ACT.—The Indian Health Care Improvement  
8 Act.

9 (G) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENE-  
10 FITS PROGRAM.—Chapter 89 of title 5, United  
11 States Code.

12 (H) MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (IN-  
13 CLUDING TRICARE AND CHAMPUS PRO-  
14 GRAMS).—Chapter 55 of title 10, United States  
15 Code.

16 (I) VETERANS MEDICAL CARE.—Chapter  
17 17 of title 38, United States Code.

18 (J) HEALTH SERVICES FOR PEACE CORPS  
19 VOLUNTEERS.—Section 5(e) of the Peace Corps  
20 Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(e)).

21 (K) MEDICAL SERVICES FOR FEDERAL  
22 PRISONERS.—Section 4005(a) of title 18, Unit-  
23 ed States Code.

1           (2) FEDERAL FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL.—

2           The provisions of subsection (c) apply to facilities  
3           and personnel of the following:

4           (A) MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.—

5           The Department of Defense operating under  
6           chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

7           (B) VETERANS MEDICAL CARE.—The Vet-  
8           erans Health Administration of the Department  
9           of Veterans Affairs.

10          (C) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.—The Pub-  
11          lic Health Service.

12          (3) NONEXCLUSIVE LIST.—Nothing in this sub-  
13          section shall be construed as limiting the application  
14          of subsection (a) to the programs specified in para-  
15          graph (1) or the application of subsection (c) to the  
16          facilities and personnel specified in paragraph (2).

17   **SEC. 4. RESTRICTION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER**  
18                   **CERTAIN GRANT PROGRAMS UNDER THE DE-**  
19                   **VELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE**  
20                   **AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT.**

21          Subject to section 3(b) (relating to construction and  
22          treatment of certain services), no funds appropriated by  
23          Congress to carry out part B, D, or E of the Developmen-  
24          tal Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act may be  
25          used to support or fund any program or service which has



1 a purpose of assisting in procuring any item, benefit, or  
2 service furnished for the purpose of causing, or the pur-  
3 pose of assisting in causing, the death of any individual,  
4 such as by assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing.

5 **SEC. 5. RESTRICTION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS BY AD-**  
6 **VOCACY PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 3(b) (relating  
8 to construction and treatment of certain services), no  
9 funds appropriated by Congress may be used to assist in,  
10 to support, or to fund any activity or service which has  
11 a purpose of assisting in, or to bring suit or provide any  
12 other form of legal assistance for the purpose of—

13 (1) securing or funding any item, benefit, pro-  
14 gram, or service furnished for the purpose of caus-  
15 ing, or the purpose of assisting in causing, the sui-  
16 cide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of any individual;

17 (2) compelling any person, institution, govern-  
18 mental entity to provide or fund any item, benefit,  
19 program, or service for such purpose; or

20 (3) asserting or advocating a legal right to  
21 cause, or to assist in causing, the suicide, eutha-  
22 nasia, or mercy killing of any individual.

23 (b) LIST OF PROGRAMS TO WHICH RESTRICTIONS  
24 APPLY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) applies to  
2 funds appropriated under or to carry out the follow-  
3 ing:

4                   (A) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS  
5 UNDER THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AS-  
6 SISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT.—Part C  
7 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance  
8 and Bill of Rights Act.

9                   (B) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS  
10 UNDER THE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR  
11 MENTALLY ILL INDIVIDUALS ACT.—The Protec-  
12 tion and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals  
13 Act of 1986.

14                   (C) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS  
15 UNDER THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.—  
16 Section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
17 (29 U.S.C. 794e).

18                   (D) OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS UNDER THE  
19 OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965.—Ombudsman  
20 programs under the Older Americans Act of  
21 1965.

22                   (E) LEGAL ASSISTANCE.—Legal assistance  
23 programs under the Legal Services Corporation  
24 Act.

1           (2) NONEXCLUSIVE LIST.—Nothing in this sub-  
2           section shall be construed as limiting the application  
3           of subsection (a) to the programs specified in para-  
4           graph (1).

5 **SEC. 6. RESTRICTION ON USE OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 3(b) (relating  
7           to construction and treatment of certain services) and sub-  
8           section (b) of this section, no funds appropriated by the  
9           Congress shall be used to provide, procure, furnish, or  
10          fund any item, good, benefit, activity, or service, furnished  
11          or performed for the purpose of causing, or assisting in  
12          causing, the suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of any  
13          individual.

14          (b) NONDUPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall not  
15          apply to funds to which section 3, 4, or 5 applies, except  
16          that subsection (a), rather than section 3, shall apply to  
17          funds appropriated to carry out title 10, United States  
18          Code (other than chapter 55), title 18, United States Code  
19          (other than section 4005(a)), and chapter 37 of title 28,  
20          United States Code.

21 **SEC. 7. CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO ADVANCE DI-**  
22 **RECTIVES.**

23          Subject to section 3(b) (relating to construction and  
24          treatment of certain services), sections 1866(f) and

1 1902(w) of the Social Security Act shall not be con-  
2 strued—

3 (1) to require any provider or organization, or  
4 any employee of such a provider or organization, to  
5 inform or counsel any individual regarding any right  
6 to obtain an item or service furnished for the pur-  
7 pose of causing, or the purpose of assisting in caus-  
8 ing, the death of the individual, such as by assisted  
9 suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing; or

10 (2) to apply to or to affect any requirement  
11 with respect to a portion of an advance directive  
12 that directs the purposeful causing of, or the pur-  
13 poseful assisting in causing, the death of any indi-  
14 vidual, such as by assisted suicide, euthanasia, or  
15 mercy killing.

16 **SEC. 8. APPLICATION TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

17 For purposes of this Act, the term “funds appro-  
18 priated by Congress” includes funds appropriated to the  
19 District of Columbia pursuant to an authorization of ap-  
20 propriations under title V of the District of Columbia Self-  
21 Government and Governmental Reorganization Act and  
22 the term “Federal government” includes the government  
23 of the District of Columbia.

24 **SEC. 9. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

25 (a) MEDICARE PROGRAM.—

1           (1) FUNDING.—Section 1862(a) of the Social  
2       Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(a)) is amended—

3                   (A) by striking “or” at the end of para-  
4       graph (14);

5                   (B) by striking the period at the end of  
6       paragraph (15) and inserting “; or”; and

7                   (C) by inserting after paragraph (15) the  
8       following new paragraph:

9           “(16) in the case in which funds may not be  
10       used for such items and services under the Assisted  
11       Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

12           (2) ADVANCE DIRECTIVES.—Section 1866(f) of  
13       such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc(f)) is amended by add-  
14       ing at the end the following new paragraph:

15       “(4) For construction relating to this subsection, see  
16       section 7 of the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act  
17       of 1997 (relating to clarification respecting assisted sui-  
18       cide, euthanasia, and mercy killing).”.

19       (b) MEDICAID PROGRAM.—

20           (1) FUNDING.—Section 1903(i) of the Social  
21       Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(i)) is amended—

22                   (A) by striking “or” at the end of para-  
23       graph (14);

24                   (B) by striking the period at the end of  
25       paragraph (15) and inserting “; or”; and

1 (C) by inserting after paragraph (15) the  
2 following new paragraph:

3 “(16) with respect to any amount expended for  
4 which funds may not be used under the Assisted  
5 Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

6 (2) ADVANCE DIRECTIVES.—Section 1902(w) of  
7 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(w)) is amended by add-  
8 ing at the end the following new paragraph:

9 “(5) For construction relating to this subsection, see  
10 section 7 of the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act  
11 of 1997 (relating to clarification respecting assisted sui-  
12 cide, euthanasia, and mercy killing).”.

13 (c) TITLE XX BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.—Section  
14 2005(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397d(a))  
15 is amended—

16 (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph  
17 (8);

18 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
19 graph (9) and inserting “; or”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(10) in a manner inconsistent with the As-  
22 sisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

23 (d) MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANT  
24 PROGRAM.—Section 501(a) of the Social Security Act (42

1 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “Funds appropriated under this section may only be used  
4 in a manner consistent with the Assisted Suicide Funding  
5 Restriction Act of 1997.”.

6 (e) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—Title II of the  
7 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is  
8 amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
9 section:

10 **“SEC. 246. RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ASSISTED**  
11 **SUICIDE, EUTHANASIA, AND MERCY KILLING.**

12 “Appropriations for carrying out the purposes of this  
13 Act shall not be used in a manner inconsistent with the  
14 Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

15 (f) INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT.—  
16 Title II of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25  
17 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
18 the following new section:

19 **“LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS**

20 **“SEC. 225. Amounts appropriated to carry out this**  
21 **title may not be used in a manner inconsistent with the**  
22 **Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.**

23 (g) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFIT PRO-  
24 GRAM.—Section 8902 of title 5, United States Code, is  
25 amended by adding at the end the following:

1       “(o) A contract may not be made or a plan approved  
 2       which includes coverage for any benefit, item, or service  
 3       for which funds may not be used under the Assisted Sui-  
 4       cide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

5       (h) MILITARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—Section  
 6       1073 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by add-  
 7       ing at the end the following: “This chapter shall be admin-  
 8       istered consistent with the Assisted Suicide Funding Re-  
 9       striction Act of 1997.”.

10       (i) VETERANS’ MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM.—

11               (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17  
 12       of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
 13       ing at the end the following new section:

14       **“§ 1707. Restriction on use of funds for assisted sui-**  
 15               **cide, euthanasia, or mercy killing**

16       “Funds appropriated to carry out this chapter may  
 17       not be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the  
 18       Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

19               (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
 20       tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
 21       by inserting after the item relating to section 1706  
 22       the following new item:

      “1707. Restriction on use of funds for assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy  
       killing.”.

23       (j) HEALTH CARE PROVIDED FOR PEACE CORPS  
 24       VOLUNTEERS.—Section 5(e) of the Peace Corps Act (22



1 U.S.C. 2504(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing: “Health care may not be provided under this sub-  
3 section in a manner inconsistent with the Assisted Suicide  
4 Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

5 (k) MEDICAL SERVICES FOR FEDERAL PRIS-  
6 ONERS.—Section 4005(a) of title 18, United States Code,  
7 is amended by inserting “and to the extent consistent with  
8 the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997”  
9 after “Upon request of the Attorney General”.

10 (l) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND BILL OF  
11 RIGHTS ACT.—

12 (1) STATE PLANS REGARDING DEVELOPMENTAL  
13 DISABILITIES COUNCILS.—Section 122(c)(5)(A) of  
14 the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of  
15 Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6022(c)(5)(A)) is amended—

16 (A) in clause (vi), by striking “and” after  
17 the semicolon at the end;

18 (B) in clause (vii), by striking the period  
19 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following  
21 clause:

22 “(viii) such funds will be used consist-  
23 ent with the section 4 of the Assisted Sui-  
24 cide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

1           (2) LEGAL ACTIONS BY PROTECTION AND AD-  
2       VOCACY SYSTEMS.—Section 142(h) of such Act (42  
3       U.S.C. 6042(h)) is amended by adding at the end  
4       the following new paragraph:

5           “(3) LIMITATION.—The systems may only use  
6       assistance provided under this chapter consistent  
7       with section 5 of the Assisted Suicide Funding Re-  
8       striction Act of 1997.”.

9           (3) UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED PROGRAMS.—Sec-  
10      tion 152(b)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 6062(b)(5))  
11      is amended by adding at the end the following:  
12      “Such grants shall not be used in a manner incon-  
13      sistent with section 4 of the Assisted Suicide Fund-  
14      ing Restriction Act of 1997.”.

15          (4) GRANTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.—Sec-  
16      tion 162(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 6082(c)) is  
17      amended—

18           (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-  
19      graph (4),

20           (B) by striking the period at the end of  
21      paragraph (5) and inserting “; and”, and

22           (C) by adding at the end the following new  
23      paragraph:

24           “(6) the applicant provides assurances that the  
25      grant will not be used in a manner inconsistent with

1 section 4 of the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

3 (m) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR MENTALLY  
4 ILL INDIVIDUALS ACT OF 1986.—Section 105(a) of the  
5 Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act  
6 of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 10805(a)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the  
8 end;

9 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and  
10 inserting “; and”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end thereof the following  
12 new paragraph:

13 “(10) not use allotments provided to a system  
14 in a manner inconsistent with section 5 of the As-  
15 sisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

16 (n) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS UNDER  
17 THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973.—Section 509(f) of  
18 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794e(f)) is  
19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” after  
21 the semicolon at the end;

22 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at  
23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following para-  
25 graph:

1 “(8) not use allotments provided under this sec-  
2 tion in a manner inconsistent with section 5 of the  
3 Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.”.

4 (o) LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM.—Section 1007(b) of  
5 the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996f(b))  
6 is amended—

7 (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph  
8 (9);

9 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
10 graph (10) and inserting “; or”; and

11 (3) by adding after paragraph (10) the follow-  
12 ing:

13 “(11) to provide legal assistance in a manner  
14 inconsistent with the Assisted Suicide Funding Re-  
15 striction Act of 1997.”.

16 (p) CONSTRUCTION ON CONFORMING AMEND-  
17 MENTS.—The fact that a law is not amended under this  
18 section shall not be construed as indicating that the provi-  
19 sions of this Act do not apply to such a law.

20 **SEC. 10. RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.**

21 The provisions of this Act supersede other Federal  
22 laws (including laws enacted after the date of the enact-  
23 ment of this Act) except to the extent such laws specifi-  
24 cally supersede the provisions of this Act.

1   **SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2           (a) IN GENERAL.— The provisions of this Act (and  
3 the amendments made by this Act) take effect upon its  
4 enactment and apply, subject to subsection (b), to Federal  
5 payments made pursuant to obligations incurred after the  
6 date of the enactment of this Act for items and services  
7 provided on or after such date.

8           (b) APPLICATION TO CONTRACTS.—Such provisions  
9 shall apply with respect to contracts entered into, renewed,  
10 or extended after the date of the enactment of this Act  
11 and shall also apply to a contract entered into before such  
12 date to the extent permitted under such contract.

13   **SEC. 12. SUICIDE PREVENTION (INCLUDING ASSISTED SUI-**  
14                                   **CIDE).**

15           (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to re-  
16 duce the rate of suicide (including assisted suicide) among  
17 persons with disabilities or terminal or chronic illness by  
18 furthering knowledge and practice of pain management,  
19 depression identification and treatment, and issues related  
20 to palliative care and suicide prevention.

21           (b) RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—  
22 Section 781 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
23 295) is amended—

24                   (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
25                   section (f); and

1           (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the follow-  
2           ing new subsection:

3           “(e) RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON  
4 SUICIDE PREVENTION (INCLUDING ASSISTED SUI-  
5 CIDE).—

6           “(1) RESEARCH.—The Secretary may make  
7           grants to and enter into contracts with public and  
8           private entities for conducting research intended to  
9           reduce the rate of suicide (including assisted suicide)  
10          among persons with disabilities or terminal or chron-  
11          ic illness. The Secretary shall give preference to re-  
12          search that aims—

13               “(A) to assess the quality of care received  
14               by patients with disabilities or terminal or  
15               chronic illness by measuring and reporting spe-  
16               cific outcomes;

17               “(B) to compare coordinated health care  
18               (which may include coordinated rehabilitation  
19               services, symptom control, psychological sup-  
20               port, and community-based support services) to  
21               traditional health care delivery systems; or

22               “(C) to advance biomedical knowledge of  
23               pain management.

24           “(2) TRAINING.—The Secretary may make  
25           grants and enter into contracts to assist public and

1 private entities, schools, academic health science cen-  
2 ters, and hospitals in meeting the costs of projects  
3 intended to reduce the rate of suicide (including as-  
4 sisted suicide) among persons with disabilities or  
5 terminal or chronic illness. The Secretary shall give  
6 preference to qualified projects that will—

7 “(A) train health care practitioners in pain  
8 management, depression identification and  
9 treatment, and issues related to palliative care  
10 and suicide prevention;

11 “(B) train the faculty of health professions  
12 schools in pain management, depression identi-  
13 fication and treatment, and issues related to  
14 palliative care and suicide prevention; or

15 “(C) develop and implement curricula re-  
16 garding disability issues, including living with  
17 disabilities, living with chronic or terminal ill-  
18 ness, attendant and personal care, assistive  
19 technology, and social support services.

20 “(3) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Sec-  
21 retary may make grants to and enter into contracts  
22 with public and nonprofit private entities for the  
23 purpose of conducting demonstration projects that  
24 will—

1                   “(A) reduce restrictions on access to hos-  
2                   pice programs; or

3                   “(B) fund home health care services, com-  
4                   munity living arrangements, and attendant care  
5                   services.

6                   “(4) PALLIATIVE MEDICINE.—The Secretary  
7                   shall emphasize palliative medicine among its fund-  
8                   ing and research priorities.”.

9                   (c) REPORT BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—  
10                  Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
11                  Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall  
12                  submit to the Congress a report providing an assessment  
13                  of programs under subsection (e) of section 781 of the  
14                  Public Health Service Act (as added by subsection (b) of  
15                  this section) to conduct research, provide training, and de-  
16                  velop curricula and of the curricula offered and used by  
17                  schools of medicine and osteopathic medicine in pain man-  
18                  agement, depression identification and treatment, and is-  
19                  sues related to palliative care and suicide prevention. The  
20                  purpose of the assessment shall be to determine the extent  
21                  to which such programs have furthered knowledge and  
22                  practice of pain management, depression identification



- 1 and treatment, and issues related to palliative care and
- 2 suicide prevention.

Passed the House of Representatives April 10, 1997.

Attest:

*Clerk.*